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Front Edit Other
Page Page Page

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Former Tylerite Directs Naval Air Test Center

A former Tyler resident, Allen H. Balch, is now officer in charge of Patrol Squadron Thirty, Detachment Alfa, at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Md.

Commander Balch is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Balch of Tyler. His wife is the former Miss Jean Roach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Roach, 1619 West Bow.

Commander Balch entered the Navy at Tyler in July of 1945, and in 1949, graduated from the Naval Academy. After commissioning, he began flight training in Pensacola, Fla., and Corpus Christi and was designated as a naval aviator in 1951.

Also in 1951, Balch was trained at the Fleet Aviation Electronic Training Unit at Whidbey Island where he served as assistant communications officer, areial mine warfare officer and anti-submarine warfare officer until 1954.

While at Whidbey Island, Commander Balch was deployed to Kodiak, Hawaii-Guam and Okinawa. From 1954 until 1957 he saw duty at the Naval Air Station in Hutchinson, Kans., where he served as light instructor and as service information officer.

From 1957 to 1958, he attended General Line School in Monterey, Calif. Subsequently, he was ordered to Blynco, Ga., for training in the Central Intelligence Corps. Commander Balch

ALLEN H. BALCH

then served as assistant intelligence officer and senior air intercept control officer aboard the USS Intrepid until April of 1961.

For the remainder of 1961, Commander Balch attended Fleet Aviation Electronic Training Unit, Atlantic, in Norfolk, Va., and saw later service in Jacksonville, Fla.

He also served with a patrol squadron at Patuxent River where he served as operations officer until June of 1963. His other service included duty as a staff member of Commander Fleet Air Wings, Atlantic, where he was training officer.

The Balchs have five children. They are Barbara, 14; Deborah, 12; Patricia, 9; Allen, 6, and Karen, 2.